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Atlantic Richfield Company

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May 6, 2013

Mr. Steven Way
On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Program (8EPR-SA)
US EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129**Delivered via e-mail****Subject: April 2013 Monthly Progress Report
Rico-Argentine Mine Site – Rico Tunnels
Operable Unit OU01, Rico, Colorado**

Dear Mr. Way,

This progress report describes activities conducted during the month of April, 2013 at the Rico-Argentine Mine Site (site) and activities anticipated to occur during the upcoming month. These activities are organized by task as identified in the Removal Action Work Plan. This progress report is being submitted in accordance with Paragraph 35.a of the Unilateral Administrative Order for Removal Action (the "UAO"), dated March 17, 2011.

ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL

This section describes significant developments during the preceding period including actions performed and any problems encountered during this reporting period.

Site-Wide Activities

- A meeting was held between representatives of AR and EPA at Rico on April 30, 2013 regarding the draft revision to Section 8.0 – Schedule of the Rico Argentine Mine Site – Unilateral Administrative Order for Removal Action. EPA comments to the draft schedule were discussed and a revised schedule will be formally approved by EPA.
- Digital archives continue to be reviewed by the Atlantic Richfield project team for information that may provide a better understanding of the site. Search strategies continue to be refined to maximize to the extent feasible the recovery of information of potential use to the project team. A database of the searches performed is in development to document the use of the digital archive.
- A refined SharePoint site has been developed and beta tested in preparation for transfer of relevant project data and documents to the new site in May.
- Continued avalanche hazard studies of the St. Louis Ponds Site and the Argentine Mill Site/Access Road.
- Continued avalanche monitoring specific to site conditions and access routes.
- Conducted site-specific avalanche hazard forecasting.

Task A – Pre-Design and Ongoing Site Monitoring

- Submitted November and December Surface Water Sampling Reports and cross sectional transect data prior to posting to the project SharePoint site.

(<https://extranet.aecom.com/sites/ricostlouis/SitePages/Home.aspx>)

- Reviewing January Surface Water Sampling Reports and cross sectional transect data prior to posting to the project SharePoint site.
- The April water sampling event was initiated on April 3, 2013 and completed April 26, 2013.
- April sampling event groundwater samples and water levels were obtained from the following groundwater wells: GW-1, GW-3, GW-4, GW-5, GW-6, EB-1, EB-2, MW-101, MW-102, MW-103, MW-104, MW-204, CHV-101, P13-102, P13-103, MW-1 DEEP, MW-1 SHALLOW, MW-2 DEEP, MW-3 DEEP, MW-4 DEEP, MW-4 SHALLOW, MW-5 DEEP, MW-5 SHALLOW, MW-6 DEEP, and MW-6 SHALLOW. The following wells were found to be dry: MW-202, MW-2 SHALLOW, and MW-3 SHALLOW.
- During the April sampling event, surface water samples were collected from locations DR-3, DR-4, DR-5 and DR-6.
- During the April sampling event, Dolores River water samples and flow measurements were collected from DR-2 and DR-7. Grab samples as well as multi-point composite samples were obtained from the two referenced river locations.
- During April, flumes were inspected for debris and ice buildup. The flumes were cleared as required.
- Downloaded available flume data for April 2013 from the Parshall flume data loggers. The most recent data was obtained from the OTT PLS pressure transducer at north flume (DR-3) and from OTT Orpheus Mini at south flume (DR-6). Diagnostic function testing was completed on the transducers at DR-3 and DR-6. DR-6 is performing within its sensitivity range. The DR-3 transducer is scheduled for replacement due to loss of sensitivity next month.
- Data from the pressure transducer located in angle borehole AT-2 was not collected due to snow and safe access within the St Louis Tunnel cut area. Safe access will be assessed for future data collection.
- Conducted inspection of the pond system spillways, pipes, water levels and general conditions. Overall condition of the pond good. All spillways and pipes observed to be flowing without obstructions or excessive icing.
- A Doppler Radar Flow Meter was installed at Dolores River station DR-1 and the unit was operational by April 16, 2013. Telemetry radio antenna path analysis testing was conducted on April 16 and 17 to evaluate effective remote communication of this unit and other potential locations around the site.
- Continued work on overall site Data Management System (EQuIS) development. Web site with data in tabular format has been set up and is currently being tested and refined. Completed setup of some standard data queries to retrieve the data that is needed. Web site for querying data from a map is nearing completion.
- The Surface and Ground Water SAP and QAPP have been updated to address EPA comments, newly install wells and surface water sampling locations. The plans are currently being reviewed internally. The Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) are to be submitted to EPA in May 2013.
- Continued development of the conceptual site model (CSM).

Task B – Management of Precipitation Solids in the Upper Settling Ponds

- St. Louis adit discharge water was diverted to Pond 15 during April 2013. Pond 18 has not been in use during April due to seeps and leakage from a partially buried historic plastic pipe between Pond 18 and 15 observed in November. Repairs of the Pond 18 pipe seep area scheduled for May 2013.
- Pond 18 was closely monitored for seepage conditions and no leaks or seeps were observed. The pond is not in use.
- The St Louis Pond system embankments, flow and general conditions were inspected during April 2013. The ponds have adequate freeboard. Flow into and between the ponds is not blocked, and the overall condition of the embankments appears good.
- Prepared the solids removal plan for Pond 11 and 12 for discussion and submittal to EPA in May.
- Pre-qualification of Pond 11 and 12 solids removal contractors has been completed during April.

